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Viewing cable #06MANAGUA942, VICAR SUGGESTS TO DAS MADISON THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#06MANAGUA942**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
06MANAGUA942	2006-05-02 14:44	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Managua

Appears in these articles:

- <http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758456.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758467.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758468.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758464.aspx>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4103/la-embusa-y-el-gabinete-de-ortega>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4104/d-escoto-en-onu-un-desafio-de-ortega-a-ee-uu-rdquo>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4102/estrada-y-la-lquo-doble-cara-rdquo-ante-ee-uu>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3966/la-lquo-injerencia-rdquo-de-ee-uu-en-el-2006>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-23/Mundo/Relacionados/Mundo2758764.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-23/Mundo/NotaPrincipal/Mundo2758753.aspx>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4041/millones-de-dolares-sin-control-y-a-disolucion>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4040/la-lquo-injerencia-rdquo-de-venezuela-en-2006>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4047/rodrigo-barreto-enviado-de-lquo-vacaciones-rdquo>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2757239.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/NotaPrincipal/Mundo2746658.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/Relacionados/Mundo2757244.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/Relacionados/Mundo2746673.aspx>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3991/dra-yadira-centeno-desmiente-cable-diplomatico-eeuu>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3968/pellas-pronostico-a-eeuu-victoria-de-ortega-en-2006>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3967/barreto-era-lquo-fuente-confiable-rdquo-para-eeuu>

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RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 000942

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR WHA K. MADISON, WHA/CEN, USAID/LAC M. MAGAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/02/2016

TAGS: [EAID](#) [ECON](#) [EFIN](#) [KDEM](#) [NU](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [PREL](#)

SUBJECT: VICAR SUGGESTS TO DAS MADISON THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
FAVORS NICARAGUA'S DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

Classified By: Ambassador Paul A. Trivelli. Reasons 1.4 (B,D).

¶1. (C) In Managua Vicar Carlos Aviles' April 24 meeting with DAS Madison, USAID DAA Mike Magan, and Ambassador, he affirmed that the Catholic Church will not pronounce in favor of a particular candidate. However, the Church does support democracy and favors candidates who make realistic promises, not messianic politicians who offer false hopes. He indicated that the "Marxists/Sandinistas have a captive vote" of about 30%, while Nicaragua's democratic vote is divided.

¶2. (SBU) Aviles reiterated the Church's desire to participate in the election observation process through CARITAS. Madison and Magan assured Aviles that the USG values the Catholic Church's participation and is arranging Church participation through USAID's elections partners. Magan suggested that while it is understandable that churches cannot endorse a particular candidate, they can convey messages that certain candidates more closely represent their beliefs, as is customary in the United States. Aviles replied that unlike U.S. politicians, Nicaraguan politicians have no platforms, and it is hard to pin them down on issues. However, he said the Church will consider this idea.

¶3. (U) The Vicar announced that the Church will offer a special elections mass before the November 5 elections to call for a peaceful process. Following the elections, the Church will arrange another mass of thanks. He also reported that the Church and two Catholic universities will sponsor a lecture series on the elections in August; these activities are part of the Church's efforts to encourage people to vote and to educate them on the options, he explained.

¶4. (C) Aviles acknowledged that Ortega is seeking a spiritual pardon from Cardinal Obando. In the Vicar's view, however, true forgiveness requires not only confession, but also contrition and corrective action, which in Ortega's case has not occurred.

¶5. (U) Participants:

Nicaragua:
Vicar Carlos Aviles
Padre Raul Zamora (Archbishop Brenes' personal assistant)

U.S.:
Deputy Assistant Secretary Kirsten Madison
Ambassador Paul Trivelli
USAID DAA Mike Magan
A/DCM Alex Dickie

Polcouns Victoria Alvarado (notetaker)

¶6. (C) Comment: As expected, the Vicar did not endorse a particular candidate; however, his equating of Sandinistas with Marxists and his observation that the Church supports democracy, suggest that the Church indeed prefers a democratic candidate. Thus, while we cannot expect an outright endorsement of a particular candidate, the Church may convey a more subtle message to the Nicaraguan people that the Church is uncomfortable with Sandinista candidate Daniel Ortega. End Comment.

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